



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Peter Francisco Memorial Re-dedication April 14, 2007

New Bedford, Massachusetts- On April 14, 2007, the City of New Bedford in along with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) will honor the Portuguese-American Revolutionary War Patriot, Peter Francisco.

Peter Francisco, who was born on the Azorean island of Terceira, was kidnapped and brought to the United States at the age of five. At the age of sixteen he enlisted in the militia and fought in various battles in the American Revolutionary War. Peter grew to be six-feet, six-inches tall and weighted 260 pounds. President George Washington referred to him as a “one-man army” due to his great stature and strength. Peter’s heroic actions in battle made him legendary including the 1,100-pound cannon that he single-handedly carried to keep it out of the hands of the British.

The event will begin with a parade through downtown New Bedford featuring the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, The Prince Henry Society, as well as other Portuguese associations and local veteran groups. The parade will step-off at 11:15 A.M. from the Hathaway School located on Union Street, and will head east toward downtown, then north on Pleasant Street to Peter Francisco Square at the intersection of Route 6 and Pleasant Street.

Vice President of the Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Kenneth Sutcliffe said, “We’re happy to join Mayor Lang, the citizens of New Bedford as well as the Portuguese community in honoring the tremendous legacy of American Revolutionary War Patriot Peter Francisco.”

The ceremony at Peter Francisco Square is scheduled to start at 12:30 PM. The City will mark the completion of the Francisco Monument with an unveiling of the final engravings on the stone, as well as affixing the SAR medallion of Honor. A direct descendant of Peter Francisco, his great-great granddaughter Edith Francisco Buckley will deliver the keynote address.

Early in the morning, prior to the Peter Francisco Ceremony, the Sons of the American Revolution will be honor the gravesite of a New Bedford patriot, Jabez Hathaway, who is buried at the Congregational Church at Lund's Corner will a full colonial color guard. The group will mark his grave with a bronze medallion as they did in 2006 at a similar ceremony held at a gravesite in Rural Cemetery.

For more information contact Jennifer Patrão at (508) 979-1477. The event is free and open to the public.

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